



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

LABOR FORCE & EMPLOYMENT

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 4.0 percent for July 2001, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate was up one-tenth of a percentage point from June 2001, and up four-tenths of a percentage point from July 2000. Despite the increased number of layoffs throughout the Treasure Valley, the unemployment rate of 4.0 percent is well below the 5.0 percent that economists usually refer to as "full employment." The economy, though slower in some industries, is still doing fairly well overall. The number of individuals employed increased from 240,900 in June to 242,800 in July. An increase also occurred in the number of unem-

Treasure Valley Table 2: July 2001 Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for Southwest Idaho Counties				
	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	183,061	6,647	3.6	176,44
Adams	1,726	236	13.7	1,490
Boise	2,190	122	5.6	2,068
Canyon	69,951	3,533	5.0	66,419
Elmore	9,432	561	6.0	8,871
Gem	6,879	620	9.0	6,259
Owyhee	4,548	217	4.8	4,331
Payette	10,086	640	6.3	9,446
Valley	4,364	364	8.3	4,000
Washington	4,567	318	7.0	4,249
Statewide	684,641	34,470	5.0	50,171

played individuals, from 9,800 in June to 10,200 in July. The net increase in the *Civilian Labor Force* was 2,300 from June to July 2001, and an increase of 14,500 individuals year-over-year. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the July 2001 labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho.

The number of *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased by 900 between June and July 2001, and grew by 7,800 jobs since July 2000. *Goods-Producing Industries*

Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon counties

	July 2001*	June 2001	July 2000	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	253,000	250,700	238,500	0.9	6.1
Unemployment	10,200	9,800	8,200	4.1	24.4
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.0	3.9	3.4		
Total Employment	242,800	240,900	230,300	0.8	5.4
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	256,300	253,000	241,800	1.3	6.0
Unemployment	10,000	9,500	8,000	5.3	25.0
% of Labor Force Unemployed	3.9	3.8	3.3		
Total Employment	246,300	243,500	233,800	1.1	5.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	233,100	234,000	225,300	-0.4	3.5
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	55,200	54,900	54,200	0.5	1.8
Mining & Construction	18,100	17,800	16,600	1.7	9.0
Manufacturing	37,100	37,100	37,600	0.0	-1.3
Durable Goods	28,700	28,600	29,000	0.3	-1.0
Lumber & Wood Products	3,200	3,200	3,400	0.0	-5.9
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	800	1,000	0.0	-20.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,400	2,400	2,400	0.0	0.0
Fabricated Metal Products	1,200	1,200	1,300	0.0	-7.7
Ind. & Comm. Mach. & Computer Equip.	7,100	7,100	8,200	0.0	-13.4
Electronic & Other Elect. Equip. & Comp.	13,400	13,400	12,100	0.0	10.7
Transportation Equipment	1,900	1,900	2,000	0.0	-5.0
Other Durable Goods	1,900	1,800	2,000	5.6	-5.0
Nondurable Goods	8,400	8,500	8,600	-1.2	-2.3
Food Products	5,600	5,700	5,800	-1.8	-3.4
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,800	1,800	1,900	0.0	-5.3
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,900	2,000	2,000	-5.0	-5.0
Other Nondurable Goods	900	800	800	12.5	12.5
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES	177,900	179,100	171,100	-0.7	4.0
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	12,100	12,200	11,900	-0.8	1.7
Transportation	6,700	6,800	6,400	-1.5	4.7
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Services	5,400	5,400	5,500	0.0	-1.8
Trade	58,300	58,600	56,200	-0.5	3.7
Wholesale Trade	13,800	13,900	13,700	-0.7	0.7
Durable Goods	8,300	8,400	8,200	-1.2	1.2
Nondurable Goods	5,500	5,500	5,500	0.0	0.0
Retail Trade	44,500	44,700	42,500	-0.4	4.7
General Merchandise Stores	6,200	6,300	4,800	-1.6	29.2
Foods Stores	7,600	7,600	8,000	0.0	-5.0
Eating & Drinking Places	15,700	15,700	15,200	0.0	3.3
Other Retail Trade	15,000	15,100	14,500	-0.7	3.4
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate	11,200	11,200	11,100	0.0	0.9
Services	62,400	62,300	59,800	0.2	4.3
Business Services	15,200	14,900	15,600	2.0	-2.6
Health Services	18,400	18,300	16,700	0.5	10.2
Hospitals	8,800	8,700	7,600	1.1	15.8
Eng., Acct., Res., Mngmt., & Related	4,900	4,800	4,600	2.1	6.5
Other Services	23,900	24,300	22,900	-1.6	4.4
Government	33,900	34,800	32,100	-2.6	5.6
Federal Government	5,400	5,300	5,400	1.9	0.0
State Government	12,300	12,300	11,600	0.0	6.0
Education	3,600	3,700	3,300	-2.7	9.1
Administration	8,700	8,600	8,300	1.2	4.8
Local Government	16,200	17,200	15,100	-5.8	7.3
Education	10,000	11,200	9,300	-10.7	7.5
Administration	6,200	6,000	5,800	3.3	6.9

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

gained 300 jobs month-over-month. Job gains were primarily located in *Construction & Mining* (300), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (100), and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (100). Year-over-year, *Goods-Producing Industries* gained 1,000 jobs with *Construction & Mining* (1,500) and *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (1,100) the only industries to show employment gains year-over-year. *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* showed no change over the year with every other industry showing a decrease in total employment. The most notable loss was in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing*, where 1,100 jobs were lost year-over-year. The recent economic slowdown in the high-tech industry contributed to the loss of jobs in that industry.

Service-Producing Industries lost 1,200 jobs between June 2001 and July 2001. Job losses in *Transportation* (100), *Durable Goods Trade* (100), *General Merchandise Stores* (100), *Other Retail Trade* (800), *Other Services* (400), *State Government Education* (100), and *Local Government Education* (1,200) outpaced job gains in *Business Services* (300), *Health Services* (100) primarily *Hospitals* (100), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (100), *Federal Government* (100), *State Government Administration* (100), and *Local Government Administration* (200) to create a net decrease in employment. The primary loss was in *Local Government Education*, with most school districts breaking for the summer. Year-over-year, there was an increase of 6,800 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, with *Communication & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services, Food Stores, and Business Services* the only industries to experience a job loss. The most notable job gains over the year occurred in *General Merchandise Stores* (1,400), *Health Services* (1,700) primarily *Hospitals* (1,200), and *Other Services* (1,000).

SPECIAL TOPICS

Fall Semester Starts at Treasure Valley Schools

Fall marks the beginning of school for colleges and universities in the Treasure Valley. Many changes have occurred at these schools, and the following is an overview of some of the changes at these institutions.

- Boise State University (BSU) plans to open a new \$12 million recreation center by January 2002. BSU also will aggressively start to develop research at the school. A new EMT-paramedic program is beginning this year to meet demand for these occupations in Idaho. A new call center training program also is beginning this year.
- Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) was reclassified as a University by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. The change reflects the increasingly comprehensive nature of NNU's programs including graduate programs, continuing education, and community outreach. With the addition of these new programs, NNU expects a gradual increase in enrollment at the Nampa campus. Increased growth in the Business and Economics Department has prompted the construction of the new 26,000-square-foot Helstrom Business Center which should be completed in December for a 2002 opening.
- Albertson College of Idaho (ACI) has been reclassified as a national liberal arts institution by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education. ACI has been honored by U.S. News & World Report for four years as the No. 1 liberal arts college in the West. ACI also is continuing its expansion program that was announced in the last few years. Four new dormitories are under construction on land acquired by the campus last year. Enrollment continues to increase at the school.

High-Tech Industry Update

- The Treasure Valley's high-tech industry continues to lay off workers. At least 2,000 workers have been laid off in the industry since January 2001. Despite recent announcements of layoffs, Micron Technology announced plans to open a 90,000-square-foot manufacturing plant near its Boise facility in 2002 as part of joint venture agreement with DuPont Photomasks, Inc. The facility will manufacture photomasks, which are reusable template discs that contain electronic patterns.
- In mid-August, Micronpc.com continued to reduce its workforce in an effort to become a leaner, more efficient company. The company continues its restructuring efforts after being taken over by Gores Technology in June. Gores is a private investment firm based in Los Angeles.
- PixTech, a local small display panel manufacturer, announced in August plans to close its Boise operations. The company employs 68 people at the 73,000 square-foot plant located near Broadway Avenue and Federal Way. The building will be vacant by the end of September at which time all employees will be laid off.
- Hewlett-Packard cut 6,000 jobs from its payroll in mid-August following the announcement of job cuts in July. About 245 of those job cuts will occur in Treasure Valley, although the exact number of jobs lost at the Boise location is unknown. The layoffs throughout the company occurred at all levels. The decrease in sales of the company's computer and printer products, and lowered expectations in the industry, were cited as reasons for the layoffs.
- Shareholders of Micron Electronics and its web-hosting partner, Interland, approved a merger be-

tween the two companies in early August. The approval leads to Micron Electronics' name change to Interland, and moves its headquarters from Nampa to Atlanta, Georgia. The new company will focus solely on web-hosting and related Internet services, and will cut all ties to the PC operations in Nampa.

Rural Fire Departments Receive Additional Funds

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced an additional \$250,000 in funds for rural fire departments throughout Southwest Idaho. The rural assistance grant program is part of the National Fire Plan that was developed after the 2000 fire season. The money will be used for training, equipment, and prevention programs in those rural areas.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- Boise State University, the Boise Metro Economic Development Council (BMEDC), and a consortium of call center managers throughout the Treasure Valley have announced a joint venture in creating a course at BSU to train call center workers. This group hopes that the course may reduce the amount of turnover in the call center industry, which is estimated to be at least 25 percent. The four-week session will introduce students to call center basics that will include tours of various call centers, guest speakers, and simulations. Cost for the basic class is \$99. More advanced classes also may be made available. Nearly 8,000 people in the Treasure Valley work in a call center environment.
- The Ida-Ore Planning and Development Association of Boise was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration in early August. The grant will help fund an economic adjustment strategy for developing training programs designed to diversify the workforce in Elmore and Owyhee counties.
- In late August, Albertson's cut many white-collar jobs at the Boise headquarters and throughout the nation. The job cuts are part of reorganization plans that were announced by the company in July. The company will not release specific layoff numbers but only said that 15 to 20 percent of the workforce was laid off. The layoffs were made after Albertson's employees were offered voluntary severance packages.
- The Platt Gardens reopened at the Boise Depot after completion of an \$80,000 renovation project which began in March. The renovation project included replacement of the park's irrigation system, new landscaping, signs, railings, and improved lighting. Platt Gardens features a winding walk, benches, ponds, a monument of volcanic rock, plants, and blooming flowers.

- The Community Planning Association of Southwest Idaho (COMPASS) recently moved from downtown Boise to its new office in Meridian at 800 South Industry Way, Suite 100. COMPASS officials said the move was made to provide a more central location for the regional planning organization which serves Ada and Canyon Counties.
- Harvest Classic started production of all-natural bread at its new bakery in Nampa in late August. The plant was moved to Nampa from Boise in order to expand operations. The new bakery is located on Park Center Way, off Midland Boulevard. The company plans to open a retail store and deli at the location in late November.
- Work will begin this month on the Nampa Municipal Airport expansion project. The project will include an extension of the property to the east that will double hangar capacity and make room for aviation-related businesses, including repair shops, chartering services, and flight training.
- In late July, the Idaho State School and Hospital started a \$9 million construction project that will replace many of the buildings on the property. Three 17,900-square-foot buildings will be built, each accommodating 20 beds, along with two smaller multi-purpose buildings that will be used primarily for physical therapy. Security in the buildings also will be upgraded. The entire project should be completed by October 2002.
- Terry Reilly Health Services was awarded three grants totaling \$260,000 from the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services in mid-August. The grants were part of a \$28.4 million grant for 220 health centers across the nation. The grant monies will be used to help recruit and retain dentists, and to provide services to meet the medical and mental health needs of homeless people in the Nampa-Caldwell area. Funds also will be used to help improve mental health services to farm workers, mainly in the Caldwell, Wilder, and Marsing areas, and provide migrant workers better access to counselors.
- Ross Dress For Less recently opened in the Karcher Mall in Nampa. The 32,035-square-foot store on the west end of the mall will employ between 35 and 40 full and part-time workers. Mrs. Fields Cookies and U.S. Factory Outlets also have announced plans to open stores in Karcher Mall. Pic 'n' Save, located in a building next to Karcher Mall, changed its name to Big Lots and held a grand reopening in late August.

Adams County

- Out of the Box and Office Express recently opened in New Meadows. The establishment is located at

410 Virginia Street and offers unique gifts, stationary, scrap-booking crafts and supplies, and also offers selected business services. The business is open Tuesdays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Boise County

- Morris D. Huffman, former U.S. Forest Service District Ranger, has been hired by Boise and Gem counties to work on business retention, expansion, and diversification projects. The Rural Economic Development Professionals Program, associated with the Idaho Department of Commerce, provides funding for the position.

Elmore County

- In late July, Curves for Women held a ribbon cutting ceremony at its new location at 2390 American Legion Boulevard in Mountain Home. The Mountain Home franchise has more than 450 members. The workout center is open from 5 a.m. to 8 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 12 noon.
- In mid-August a judicial confirmation was granted that will allow Elmore County and the city of Mountain Home to enter into a lease/purchase agreement for a joint law enforcement center and jail. Details for the design and construction of the facility have not been decided.

Gem County

- Employees who were laid off this summer at the Emmett and Cascade mills will receive federal assistance resulting from the approval of a petition filed by the Boise Cascade Corporation. The Division of Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), through the U.S. Department of Labor, approved the petition. The federal law aids workers who lose their jobs as a result of foreign competition. The former Boise Cascade mill workers were granted the assistance because it was concluded that foreign imports that competed with lumber and plywood produced at the two mills contributed to the decline in sales or production and the loss of jobs at the two mills. This means that the 375 workers who were laid off at the two mills could be eligible for additional training allowances, relocation assistance, and re-employment services.
- Two new businesses opened recently in Gem County — Edward Jones Investments and Six Rivers Counseling. Edward Jones Investments held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in late July as the newest branch opened on South Washington Avenue in Emmett. Six Rivers Counseling offers a variety of counseling services including individual, family,

and group services. The center is located at 125 South Washington in Emmett.

Payette County

- Payless Gas in Payette recently changed ownership. Tim and Debbie Belisle of Weiser began operating the station in May. The new owners renovated and remodeled the convenience store including adding Buff & Stuff, a vehicle detail service that moved from Weiser. Payless Gas is located at 550 South Main in Payette.

Valley County

- Manchester at Payette Lake (formerly Shore Lodge) and Manchester at Payette Lake golf Course (formerly Whitetail Golf Course) may be converted into a private club. A consulting firm is currently conducting a study on whether or not the lodge and golf club should be marketed as a private club. Regardless of the outcome of the study, the facilities will open in June 2002.

Washington County

- The Weiser Municipal Airport Advisory Committee has applied for a \$705,214 grant from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to pay for upgrades to the airport that would allow increased traffic, improved inclement weather use, and possible extended hours. If the grant is approved, the money will be used to put a seal coat on the asphalt runway, repave the airplane parking areas and ramps, and repair the fence surrounding the airport.

Jennifer Pirtle, Regional Labor Economist
205 E. Watertower Lane, Meridian, ID 83642
(208) 895-6642
E-mail: jpirtle@labor.state.id.us